

REMARKS

The Examiner rejected all claims of the pending application: 1, 5, 7, 9, 12, 18, 23 and 25-33 in an Office Action having a mailing date of June 10, 2004. This was a Final Rejection.

The Examiner, in addition to the rejection, made objection to Claims 1 and 31 because of informalities. With respect to Claim 1, the Examiner noted that the word “distinct” does not necessarily mean that each indicator is different from the others and that “distinct” may also mean “easy to perceive.” To clarify Claim 1, it has been amended and the word “distinct” has been changed to “visually unique,” which means that each indicator is different from the others and each marker face is different from the others. Although it is believed that the term “distinct” was clear, in the context of the invention and the detailed specification, to avoid the term being considered “indefinite” and to focus the merits of the Appeal on the issue of obviousness, the claim has been amended. The language is clear and definite.

Also as to Claim 1, the Examiner found the term “and/or” to be unclear and suggested replacing the term “said primary links and/or said connecting links” with “at least one of said primary links and said connecting links.” The Examiner’s suggested correction has been made in the amendment to Claim 1.

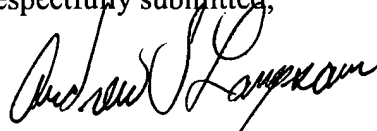
As to claim 31, the Examiner found that it improperly depended on canceled claim 11. Claim 31 has been amended to now depend from independent claim 1.

A similar minor language change was made in independent claim 23, again, to focus the appeal on the merits of the invention and to avoid unnecessary discussion as to the differences, if any, between, “visually unique” and “distinct,” within the context of the teachings and

specification of the present invention.

Any fee due with this paper, may be charged to Deposit Account 02-2105.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew S. Langsam". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Andrew" and last name "Langsam" clearly distinguishable.

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